

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the government against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI REMESH-WAR THAKUR): (a) The amount of central excise duty recovered was as under:-

*(Rs in crores)*

*(Actuals)*

1998-89	1989-90	1990-91
18841	22406	24356 (Provisional)

(b) Under the Self Removal Procedure, assesses work out the central excise duty payable and debt it to their Ledger Account. In respect of units working under Physical Control, prior to clearance of goods on assessment by central excise officials, central excise duty is paid voluntarily. Thus, in all cases duty is paid voluntarily at the time of the clearance. When ever there is any dispute regarding the correct amount of duty payable, the duty is paid provisionally and difference of duty, if any, is paid after the dispute is finally settled.

(c) to (e). Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

#### **Recruitment Centres in Orissa**

2671. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up recruitment centres for Defence Services in Orissa;

(b) if so, the places selected for this purpose; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) the following Recruiting Centres are presently operating in Orrisa:-

- (i) Branch Recruiting Office, Cuttack.
- (ii) Branch Recruiting Office, Sambalpur.
- (iii) Branch Recruiting Office, Bhrampur.
- (iv) Airmen Selection Centre, Bhubaneshwar.
- (v) Naval Recruiting Establishment, INS, Chilka.

Keeping in view the Recruitable Male Population (RMP) and the geographical areas of the State these five Recruiting Centres are considered adequate.

[English]

#### **Maintenance of Foreign Currency Accounts by Exporters**

2672. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has decided to permit exporters with a satisfactory track record to maintain foreign currency account with the State Bank of India and foreign banks operating in India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). Yes Sir. the brief details of the Scheme are given in the enclosed statement.

### STATEMENT

Reserve Bank has decided to selectively permit exporters having satisfactory track record to maintain foreign currency accounts with banks in India. Initially such accounts will be permitted to be maintained with SBI, other public sector banks and foreign banks operating in India at designated branches which have adequate infrastructure and expertise. Reserve Bank will also be prepared to consider requests from exporters who are in a position to arrange to raise foreign currency overdrafts/revolving lines of credit from banks abroad for financing their import requirements for maintaining foreign currency, accounts with banks abroad. RBI will also consider requests from banks in private sector authorised to deal in foreign exchange for maintenance of foreign currency accounts of their exporter customers on merits.

2. The facility of maintaining foreign currency accounts either in india or abroad, as the case may be, will generally be extended to export houses, trading houses, star trading houses and other exporters whose net foreign exchange earning during the preceding year from exports to and Imports from countries in External Group are not less than Rs. 4 crores. when an exporter is allowed to open a foreign currency account with either a bank in India or abroad, he will be permitted to credit proceeds of all export shipments made by him to countries in External Group (except countries which are members of the Asian Clearing Union) to such accounts. the funds in the accounts will be permitted to be utilised for payments of imports from Countries in external Group (exceptments countries of the Asian Clear-

ing Union), repayment of foreign currency loans raised by the exporter concerned with the approval of the Reserve Bank and payment of interest on such loans, as also for the purposes covered by the blanket permits issued by the Reserve Bank .

3. The facility of maintaining foreign currency accounts is being introduced as a mechanism for settlement of payment for imports, repayment of foreign currency loans and expenditure to be incurred for certain purposes approved by the reserve Bank, out of export proceeds credited to such accounts, the exporters will have to comply with all the Exchange Control/Trade Control requirements in respect of exports/imports and foreign currency borrowings, etc

### Rationalisation of Sales Tax, Octroi and Royalty on Essential Commodities

2673. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have asked State Governments to monitor prices and also to review and rationalise levies such as sales tax, octroi and royalty on essential commodities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). During the meeting of the Chief Ministers held on October 4-5, 1991 a background note on management of inflation was circulated which, inter alia, requested the state governments to monitor prices at the state level and to examine the impact various levies such as sales tax, entry fee, exit fee, royalty, octroi, cess, etc. on prices and to rationalise them in the sphere of essential commodities, such as sugar, tea and edible oils. the state governments were also requested not to impose